

BIRTHS.

On the 15th instant, at Pugh's Hill, Bathurst Road, Mrs. R. W. B. B. of a son, the late Captain Richard Wood, formerly of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry.

MARRIAGES.

On Thursday, the 15th instant, at the residence of the Rev. Canon Wood, of the late Captain Richard Wood, formerly of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry.

DEATHS.

At 10, New England, on the 15th instant, in the 85th year of his age, Mr. John Lewis, late of London, England, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

STEAM TO BALMAIN. From the Gas Company's Wharf, every ten minutes, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. From the Gas Company's Wharf, every ten minutes, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

MONTEBELL. Captain MONTAGUE, for MELBOURNE, clear at the Customs THIS DAY. Shippers are requested to pass their entries, and send in bills of lading for signature, by Noon.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE. The well-known Al clipper ship, HEATHER BELL, lying at Campbell's Wharf. For particulars apply on board, or to JOSEPH KENDALL, Campbell's Wharf, 17, George-street, or to E. M. SAYERS, Campbell's Wharf.

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PERSONS ADVERTISED FOR.

CHARTER. THOMAS, formerly of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry, and now of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, New South Wales Infantry.

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TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SOUTH RIDING OF CUMBERLAND.

I have the honor to hold as one of your representatives in the Legislative Assembly, having been elected by your return to the office of Attorney-General, I have now again to solicit the favor of your suffrage.

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BOARD AND RESIDENCE for a Married Couple, or two friends willing to occupy the same room, with every comfort, on reasonable terms. 39, Bourke-street, Woolloomooloo.

BOARD AND RESIDENCE. At Miss WHITE'S, 66, Macquarie-street, opposite the Domain gate. This is one of the most compact and comfortable family residences in the suburbs; the situation is most healthy and delightful, being one of that pretty group of handsome and substantial custom-built houses, at the apex of Wallace Avenue, and Blake-street.

COMFORTABLE COTTAGES to LET: taxes paid and water laid on. Whittell's Wharf, Bathurst-street.

CHEAP LET. To LET, a House, containing three rooms, in Pitt-street. Rent, 21 per week. Apply to Mr. JOSEPH SIMMONS, senior, No. 212, Elizabeth-street, between Bathurst and Liverpool streets.

COTTAGE to LET, corner of Macquarie-street and Domain-terrace. Apply to J. H. ASHBY, Pitt-street.

HOUSE to LET. At Burry Hills; 5 rooms and kitchen. Rent, 15s. HALL and ALDERSON, Elizabeth-street.

HOUSE to LET in Elizabeth-street, of six rooms, yard, water laid on. Enquire No. 282, Kent very low.

TENN TO LET. doing a first-rate trade. Terms moderate. WICKHAM and BELL, 4, Jamison-street.

NEW TOWN.—To LET, a neat Four-roomed Cottage, in the best part of Pitt-street. Apply on the premises.

OFFICES. To LET, the first floor, No. 215, George-street, near the Commercial Bank, with six or seven large day-rooms. For mercantile or solicitor's offices these rooms, with their position, are unexceptionable.

REQUIRE, a Bedroom, with parlor, near the station, in the best part of Pitt-street. Address, stating terms, STREET, READING OFFICE.

SUPERIOR APARTMENTS to LET. in the vicinity of Church-street, where every comfort can be obtained. WICKHAM and BELL, 4, Jamison-street.

STORE to LET.—An extensive Store, with large shed and yard, in the best part of Pitt-street. Apply to Mr. MOFFITT, near King-street.

STORES to LET. near Circular Wharf.—A new three-storyed Store, situated in Castlereagh-street, between Hindon and Leich's Streets, with a large warehouse. Apply to J. B. ELLIOTT, 14, Bathurst-street.

RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE SUGAR TRADE.

This trade, which has become one of the most important sources of wealth to merchants, ship-owners, and others more immediately connected with it, has been little more than 200 years in arriving at its present prosperity, under British influence. It had, however, a very much earlier origin. A recent number of the *New York Herald* contains the particulars of its rise and progress:—

"From having been little known to the Greeks and Romans, except by small samples brought from China, in the form of candy, which they believed were derived from the extraction of a species of reeds, we find its actual cultivation was first introduced by the Saracens into the islands of Rhodes, Cyprus, Sicily, and Crete, in the ninth century. In the twelfth century the Venetians derived it cheaper and more abundantly from Sicily than from Egypt. The march of the Crusaders into the East caused them to become better acquainted with sugar, and on their return they spread a taste for it over the West of Europe. Venice had imported it as early as 996, anterior to the Crusades. The process of refining it is a modern discovery, made by a Venetian about the close of the fifteenth century. When the Saracens obtained a footing in Spain, they soon after introduced the cultivation of sugar into that country, which spread over the southern provinces, and was carried into Portugal. From these countries its cultivation was introduced into the Canary and Madeira Islands in the early part of the fifteenth century. It has been doubted by some whether the sugarcane is a native of the American continent. The weight of evidence, however, is in favour of the affirmative, supported by the opinion of Baron de Humboldt. It is also said to be a native of the Sandwich Islands. The oldest English settlement made in the West Indies was at Barbados, in 1627, and in 1647 they commenced exporting sugar to England. In 1656 she attained her maximum, and employed 400 vessels in the trade, averaging 150 tons each. Jamaica, wrested from Spain by Cromwell, in 1658, contained at the time only three small sugar estates. The first cultivation was commenced in Hayti in 1506, and was found to succeed better there than anywhere else. Being at first in the hands of the Spaniards, it for a long time was the source from which Europe derived its chief supplies. Previous to 1790, there were no fewer than 65,000 tons, or 130,000,000 lbs. of sugar exported from the French portion of the island. With the destruction of that island its culture was spread to other portions of inter-tropical countries. A large number of French refugees from St. Domingo settled in the then colony of Louisiana, where they established sugar plantations, and greatly extended its cultivation. The culture was also rapidly increased after its purchase by the United States, aided by American skill and enterprise. By the fall of St. Domingo, Jamaica was greatly enriched, and reached a high stage of prosperity. The Venetians, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, imported small parcels of sugar into England and France. Prior to that period, and for some time after, honey, as with the Greeks and Romans, formed the chief reliance with the people in the North of Europe for sweetening their food. Early in the seventeenth century it was only the rich who could afford sugar. In 1706 England only imported 10,000 tons, or 20,000,000 lbs. The taste for it gradually spread, and with the increase of the consumption its production was augmented by the large accession of African labour carried from the continent of Africa to the British, Spanish, and French West India Islands, and into Brazil and other localities. We have since seen the culture of sugar extend from small beginnings in the West India Islands to the Mauritius, the Brazils, Bengal, Isle of Bourbon, Java, Siam, Philippines, &c., which, with the French, Dutch, Danish, and English West India Islands, including Demerara and Berbice, produced in 1833 500,000 tons, of which 200,000 tons were imported into England; while France, in 1830, with about 31,000,000 population, consumed 67,250,000 kilograms, equal to 12,136 kilograms per head, or about 44 lbs. to 5 lbs each. This consumption, however, was exclusive of that derived from the indigenous production from beetroot sugar, and that which was smuggled into the country to avoid heavy duties, which in 1832 was from 16,000,000 to 18,000,000 lbs. Thus, allowing for the quantity fraudulently introduced, with all other supplies, the total consumption of France at this period was about 193,000,000 lbs.; and the population being about 32,000,000, gave a consumption of about 6 lbs. per head; while in England the estimated consumption at about 24 lbs. per head, was put down for the same year, the estimated consumption was about 70,000 to 80,000 tons, or 140,000,000 to 160,000,000 lbs., thus giving from 10 to 13 to 12 to 13 lbs. per head. Of the 80,000 tons consumed, 12,000 tons, or 24,000,000 lbs., were produced in the United States. The total production of the world in 1833, exclusive of the United States, &c., was about 1,120,000,000 lbs., or 560,000 tons, and the consumption at the same period in Europe, including beetroot sugar, amounted to 1,108,000,000 lbs. Since 1833 to 1856, notwithstanding the production of sugar in the twenty-three years has enormously increased, the consumption has gained upon it." The writer then proceeds to give statistical returns, showing the production and consumption of sugar in the world at the present date, which will be found of practical utility. The first return shows the

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR IN THE WORLD.

	1854.	1855.	1856.
Cybe, tons	338,000	340,000	400,000
Porto Rico	48,700	40,000	50,000
Brazil	80,000	95,000	100,000
Louisiana	221,000	178,000	125,000
Dutch colonies	81,400	85,000	85,000
West Indies	18,000	18,000	18,000
British West Indies	172,200	170,000	175,000
French East Indies	39,300	37,000	39,000
Mauritius	92,300	85,000	80,000
Java	108,000	85,000	80,000
Manila, Siam, and			
Beet-root in France	30,000	30,000	35,000
Belgium, Zollverein,			
Russia, and			
Austria	181,000	148,000	170,000
Total	1,414,000	1,324,000	1,357,000

The crop of Cuba for 1855 was 1,900,000 boxes, and calculating five boxes to the ton, 380,000 tons. For 1856 it was estimated that it would exceed the last by ten per cent.; it is now found that it will hardly exceed that, and by some it is computed at ten per cent. less, but we may put it at 400,000 tons.

CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR, OR CONSUMPTION OF THE WORLD, FOR 1855.

	1854.	1855.	1856.
Great Britain, 1000			418,000
United States			380,000
Continental Europe			265,000
Including beetroot			413,000

The destruction is in fact so complete, and the masses overthrown so gigantic, that one can hardly ascribe the present havoc to the hand of man or the appearances of volcanic action. There are now no earthquakes in Syria; and the whole of the sea-coast, as seen at Benghazi and Apollonia has subsided—an evidence at least of the presence of volcanic forces; and by this agency alone does it seem possible that such utter destruction could have been caused. The great devourer of the cities of antiquity, modern town rising in the vicinity, has not here aided the destroyer; for the seventh century is the very latest date that can be ascribed to any single building in a very wide circuit; and the nature of the country, cut up by ravines, and for ages destitute of roads, renders the transport of any large quantity of materials impossible. If its present destruction be due to the nomad tribes of those attacks Synesius speaks, who feared that Cyrene might again become a flourishing

Canada and Provinces	20,000
Portugal	10,000
Sweden and Denmark	9,000
Mexico and South America	16,000
Spain	70,000
Russia	16,000
Cuba and all sugar-producing countries not mentioned	30,000
Total	1,381,000
Estimated production of 1856	1,357,000

Thus requiring from the stock at the commencement of the year, supposing it to equal that of 1855, 24,000 tons.

We thus see that the production of sugar has not increased in the same ratio as its consumption—the latter stimulated by the low prices ruling for several years past. Now that prices have for nearly a year been remunerative, production will soon be again stimulated. By the table of productions above, we see that the production in 1856 exceeds that of 1855 by 57,000 tons. By the above tables we find that the following has been the large increase in the consumption of sugar in twenty-three years:—

	1833.	1856.
Production of the world.	1,900,000	2,869,000
Consumption, including beetroot.	1,248,000,000	2,762,000,000

The apparent production in 1856, gives only a slight excess over consumption, but it is believed that the actual consumption in 1856 will be in excess of production. Previous to the revolution in Hayti, or St. Domingo, the French had 793 sugar estates, 3117 coffee plantations, 3160 cotton ditto, and 677 miscellaneous plantations. In 1789, the year before the revolution, she exported 1,432,043 lbs. sugar, 71,000,000 lbs. of coffee, 6,000,000 lbs. cotton, and about 1,000,000 lbs. of indigo; of the total annual value of about 25,000,000 dollars. In 1836-37, the exports of Hayti had dwindled down to 16,199 lbs. of coffee, 30,845,000 lbs. of coffee, 1,000,000 lbs. of cotton, and of indigo none. From small beginnings of the culture of sugar in Louisiana by refugees from Hayti, we find by the census of 1859 the whole production of sugar in the United States, including 34,253,436 lbs. of maple sugar, to have been 153,100,000 lbs. The value of cane sugar was 12,877,185 dollars, and of maple sugar 1,752,671 dollars, and the value of molasses was 2,540,170 dollars. There were 2681 sugar plantations, embracing 400,000 acres devoted to its culture. Since the late census the supply of maple sugar has greatly diminished, while the culture of the cane in Louisiana and Texas has been greatly extended. Although the crop grown last year, or in 1855, was only 379,197 tons, against 385,298 tons in 1854, showing a decrease of 6107 tons. The present season has been backward for planting, with some scarcity of seed cane, and hence fears are entertained that the present year's yield may again be short. Texas last year supplied 8977 hogsheads. From the annual statement of M. P. A. Champier, of New Orleans, we learn that the number of hogsheads produced in Louisiana last year was 231,000; number of horse-power sugar mills, 361; number of steam mills, 938; number of sugar houses, 1299.

WANDERINGS IN NORTH AFRICA.

(From the Press.)

The tourist need never despair. There is always novelty in store for him. Mr. Hamilton has found out our view on the south shore of the Mediterranean, one of the most lovely countries on the face of the earth, once the site of a splendid and populous Grecian city, but for centuries totally forgotten, and now scarcely known to the crowd who by description are perfectly familiar with the site and monuments of Nineveh.

The classical reader need not be reminded of the fame once enjoyed by Cyrene. Aristotle had a book—unfortunately lost—on the politics of the Republic; and Plato, as unfortunately, declined to embody his ideas in a model constitution for its government. In the twelfth century of the Greek States it rivalled Carthage in prosperity. From its proximity to Egypt it fell under the dominion of Alexander and his successors, was swept by the wave of Mohammedan conquest, and now forms the eastern part of the Turkish pachalik of Tripoli. It has been visited and described by some modern travellers; but Mr. Hamilton is the first who, in our own day, has shown the ease with which it may be visited, the charms of its scenery, and the rich harvest its ruins present to the antiquary and scholar. Though the city itself has almost disappeared—the extent of its ruins alone remaining to show how vast and magnificent it must once have been—the ruins of its site remains, and the fountain of Apollonia pours forth its pure refreshing waters as gratefully as when the hand of Themans, searching for a home, clustered round the perennial spring, and returned thanks to the god who had conducted them to this lovely site, with a fertile country around and "an open heaven" above.

Mr. Hamilton landed at Benghazi, the principal town of the district, in the summer of 1852. There he made his preparations for a journey by land to Cyrene, or as it is now called Grennah. He took with him tents and all requisites for a stay of some months, intending to see what could be done by excavation, but the success which he met with was so limited. Signal success was only to be met with by the enterprising traveller who may be in condition to commence excavations on a larger scale. The country of which Cyrene was the capital consists of a succession of hills and tablelands. In this undulating district it is to be found great variety of climate; it is watered by numerous streams issuing from copious springs, and has an abundance of shade. The region is not less healthy than beautiful. The author writes:—

"I came to the country as an invalid, and was exceedingly unwell when I started for Grennah; but its pure air and lovely scenery restored me to perfect health. For those who seek summer quarters in the Mediterranean, I again repeat to them my former advice to choose the pleasant solitude of Cyrene in preference to any other hills, where so much sickness and mortality prevail."

The third chapter of the volume (pp. 33-44) gives a general description of the ruins. The author seems inclined to believe that volcanic forces must have aided the destructive efforts of man in the utter devastation of the city:—

"The destruction is in fact so complete, and the masses overthrown so gigantic, that one can hardly ascribe the present havoc to the hand of man or the appearances of volcanic action. There are now no earthquakes in Syria; and the whole of the sea-coast, as seen at Benghazi and Apollonia has subsided—an evidence at least of the presence of volcanic forces; and by this agency alone does it seem possible that such utter destruction could have been caused. The great devourer of the cities of antiquity, modern town rising in the vicinity, has not here aided the destroyer; for the seventh century is the very latest date that can be ascribed to any single building in a very wide circuit; and the nature of the country, cut up by ravines, and for ages destitute of roads, renders the transport of any large quantity of materials impossible. If its present destruction be due to the nomad tribes of those attacks Synesius speaks, who feared that Cyrene might again become a flourishing

city, and their mistresses, we cannot, after admiring the labours of her builders, but wonder at the persevering fury of her destroyers.

The fountain of Apollonia, probably from its use, has been less injured than other portions of Cyrene:—

On arriving at Grennah, the first object which naturally attracts the traveller's attention is the fountain of Cyrene—the centre which led to the choice of this site for building the city, and in the days of its prosperity the spot round which most of the public buildings were grouped. Though the volume of water which it pours out has much diminished, even in the memory of man, it is still the most abundant spring in this neighbourhood, and flocks of sheep and goats, and herds of cattle, daily cover the ground, where once the sacred rites of Apollo, or the affairs of his prosperous commerce, assembled the citizens of Cyrene. The stream of water issues from a natural passage artificially widened; it falls into a shallow, square reservoir cut into the ground of the cave; and hence it was formerly distributed, through a series of stone channels, of which many fragments still remain. The external rock is smoothed to receive the addition of a portion of that beautiful white limestone, closer grained than marble, which acquires in time a warm golden hue. The line of the fountain, deeply cut in the rock, shows the outline of its architecture, and the three lower courses of masonry its material. In the rock to the right is an inscription, beautifully cut, recording a restoration of the fountain, which, from its position, as well as its clear simple characters, may well be of earlier date than the first century, which is generally assigned to it. In front of the fountain two massive wall supports narrow platforms, the lower of which is covered with the foundations of buildings, whose marble fragments indicate considerable magnificence. Beneath these extend a broad terrace, seven hundred feet in length, and a lofty and very massive wall, which is still in great part perfect. As one stands in front of the fountain, looking to the sea, this platform, covered with ruins, lies at one's feet; while beyond, the long lines of the Eastern Necropolis wind round the curves of the hills, and the hills themselves are dotted with ruins, or intersected by old roads.

Mr. Hamilton then enters into details as to particular edifices: "The Temple of Apollo seems to have been one of the most beautiful buildings, but the Greek theatre is noted as the best preserved monument." He notes that "the medals often found are both rare and beautiful, but the marbles are not of first-rate value." This remark is, however, to be taken with some qualification:—

"I except the three dancing figures, a bas-relief on limestone, and the fountain which is still in situ. They are even now worthy a place in a museum, as they are of great artistic interest, showing the passage from the archaic style of the Egin statues to the more graceful execution of the classic school."

In one passage the author seems to regret that some fresco pictures have been transferred from the tombs of the Necropolis to the Louvre. The sentiment is scarcely worthy his many merits. Every lover of art must wish that the remains which are of value should be preserved from that process of destruction which is still going on. The Arabs are the most filthy and brutal of their race. Among the ruins was an altar of white marble:—

"When I first saw it there was on one side a votive inscription which it was difficult to decipher. Unfortunately I deferred copying it at the time, and on my return some days afterwards I found that it had been defaced by the Arabs. They had probably seen me copying the inscription, and, fearing that I might find it of value, had defaced it. I fear, with some sufficient reason for its destruction."

These degraded people, with their vermin and rage, inhabit the beautiful excavations in which once reposed the illustrious dead of Cyrene. Their natural laziness seems to give way to their love of destroying whatever yet remains of painting and sculpture. The whole description of the Necropolis is valuable. We must refer to it to chap. v. Speaking of the ruins of the temple, where the fig-tree, the olive, and the myrtle flourish in extraordinary luxuriance, the author writes:—

"Some of the tombs in this valley are the most elegant in their proportions, and the most carefully executed of any I have met with in this country; two or three still exhibit the polychromatic decoration of their architecture."

But more engaging, even, than the description of the antiquities of Cyrene is the account of the natural beauties of this most favored spot:—

"In the neighbourhood of Grennah the hills are covered with beautiful scenes, and these I gradually discovered in my rides; as some of them exceeded in richness of vegetation, and equalled in grandeur, anything that I had seen in the Apennines. About a mile from the town, on the south, one comes upon extensive remains of a fortress, situated on the edge of one of these ravines, the Wady Lebatha, which runs nearly due west the valley is filled with tombs, and frequented by countless flights of wood-pigeons. Following the ravine, and turning to the left, we enter the Wady Shehaleh, which presents a scene beyond powers of description. The olive is here contrasted with the fig, the tall cypress and the dark juniper with the arbutus and myrtle, and the pleasant breeze which blows through the valley is laden with balmy perfumes. In the midst of this wonderful richness of nature appear the grey rocks, hollowed with large and inaccessible caverns, or gently rising into rounded slopes, and sometimes rising perpendicularly and meeting, so as to leave but a narrow passage between them."

One cannot help wishing that in localities so highly favoured by nature—and they are numerous in the Turkish empire—some English settlements could be made. Would the scheme be out of the scope of commercial enterprise? We see no reason why it should be. Here is the region of Cyrenes, for example, of unsurpassed fertility, and beautiful scenery, and the Mediterranean, and a most favourable situation for maintaining a great commerce with Central Africa. In ancient times the caravans from the interior were numerous and of vast magnitude and splendour; now the traffic in slaves is the principal branch of trade:—

"The commerce is insignificant; Angles and Jalo have only dates to send in exchange for corn and the few manufactured articles which the rude life of these people requires. At uncertain and long intervals, however, when the great caravan from Wady arrive, the life of the commerce of Benghazi. Then the old picture of Cyrenes comes back for a short time renewed. The desert, for weeks, is alive with long files of camels, which arrive laden with wool and gins, and with them, also, as in old times, hundreds of unhappy creatures—the spoil of war—condemned to slavery, who come halting in at the end of their first hundred days' stage of misery. How many, however, their fellow-labourers, have dropped exhausted on the dreary road! Twenty-one degrees they traverse, on foot, exposed to the rays of a tropical sun, when for twice they rest, and then, without a change of clothing, and having a handful of meat for their daily food, Fatigue and thirst in vain lessen the numbers of the single wordly caravan. And to think that the whole world from England could arrest these horrors!"

That word has yet to be spoken. The author comments with just severity on the anomaly of using vast efforts to increase the traffic by sea, while the overland traffic takes place without even remuneration. Mr. Hamilton, like all other travellers who have seen much of the Turkish rule in the provinces, condemns it as altogether vicious and intolerable:—

"After seeing the fields of Roumelia lying waste to the very gates of his residence, the cities of Asia Minor depopulated, its mineral wealth a sealed treasure, even the Arab glories of Syria faded, the palaces of Damascus crumbled, and its markets deserted, and travelling cannot but long to see a Government changed whose oppression is less mischievous than its neglect, and which so readily permits wrongs greater than those which it sanctions."

We may be unwilling to receive truths like this; but the testimony they rest on is far too weighty to allow us to doubt them. The system of Turkish Government in the provinces is utterly, and we fear hopelessly, corrupt.

After his exploration of Cyrene the author travelled overland from Benghazi to Damanhour, and thence to Cairo. This desert journey is spiritingly told, but had nearly proved fatal to the author, through the bigotry and violence of the Arabs at Siwah. He was detained at this station for some weeks, and narrowly escaped assassination. He succeeded in despatching messengers to Cairo, and was at last rescued from his perilous position by a detachment of Egyptian troops. His courage and firmness were worthy of his blood; the Arabs received a lesson they are not likely to forget, as he bravely redeemed the word he bravely pledged them when his life was threatened, that he would be the last European they would ever be suffered to ill-treat.

Mr. Hamilton's book is one of those that every one should read. Its information, its novelty, and its adventure are all as genuine as they are attractive, and these merits are set off by great intellectual intelligence, and no small literary accomplishment.

HOW IS IT THAT THE ENGLISH ALWAYS LIKE A CROWD?

(From the Times.)

Will some ethnological gentleman explain to us how it is that the English always like a crowd? They go wherever there is likely to be a crowd; they invite their friends to a crowd; they let their guests arrive in a crowd, and depart in a crowd. The miseries of the Black Hole of Calcutta are repeated at almost every party in a London season. A lady calculates how many her rooms will hold, and asks ten times that number. With great efforts they get into a room, where they may see at the distance of a yard their dearest friend, or an acquaintance whom they have longed to see for twenty years, without the possibility of a nearer approach. For the pleasure of standing in a poisonous atmosphere for an hour ladies put themselves in the hands of their milliner, their maid, their hairdresser, for the better part of a day, at no small expense, and in half-an-hour neither they nor their dresses are fit to be seen. The vice of crowding runs through all our arrangements. We never seem to make any calculations of entrance and exit. Our theatres and concert-rooms, our police regulations, all show an utter disregard of these useful considerations. Should Lord Ashburton ever succeed in obtaining for "common things" the attention they deserve, we trust he will have this subject comprehended in the course for gentlemen and ladies:—What space does a given number, say 100, or 300, or 500, require to stand or sit in? What number and width of entrances do they require? How can they be put down from their carriages most quickly and comfortably? How can they best get away? How can they get to their carriages or their carriages to them? Seriously, it is a matter of national importance. Thousands of young ladies have had their hair ruined by first remaining for hours in hot and close rooms—in our theatres, for example, where the atmosphere has passed through a thousand lungs and so many gas jets, and then having to stand for twenty minutes with low dresses, bare heads, and bill shoes, on stone floors, in draughty passages, under a portico, or even on the wet pavement, the wind in the east, and the thermometer perhaps ten degrees below freezing point. This is no exaggeration, for these are the precise circumstances under which thousands of people heard Madame Go-dschmidt, or saw the new pieces at the theatres last Christmas. There must be something national about it, for this is the particular point at which our boasted common sense and our peculiar preference of comfort to show invariably fail. When the Duke said there were more than three men who could get 50,000 men out of Hyde Park, he touched not merely the inexperience of our generals, but a weak point in the national character. To be sure, on the occasion of the fireworks the authorities appeared to act on the maxim abundantly *castella non nocent*, for they took down three hundred yards of the Park palisades. There, however, the powers of street order seemed to fail; for notwithstanding some regulations posted on all the walls, nothing whatever had been done, or was done, to secure the circulation of the carriages, and hundreds of them stood still for hours, generally where there was nothing to be seen. There never was any means of communicating with the head of the column, and so creating a movement that would liberate the whole line of carriages.

But where, and on what occasion, do we naturally look for an example in these things? If there is a place and time in the whole world where one has a right to expect space, and order, and freedom from positive annoyances and indignities, it is one of Her Majesty's drawing-rooms. When a thousand of the first ladies and gentlemen in the land come up, perhaps from the country, array themselves as before their rank, and go to the Palace to tender their homage, and to Her Majesty to Her Majesty on her birthday, they ought not to be worse treated than the frequenters of a penny theatre, or of a dancing booth at Greenwich fair. But they are. At least, they were in the last birthday. Many of them were in the rank an hour and a half before they were put down. They had then to squeeze and almost fight their way through long passages and up narrow stairs, and round corners, and all sorts of difficulties. Every lady had to enter the Royal presence with her dress and appearance evidently disordered. Many dresses, indeed, were torn and partly stripped of their lace by the contact of the spurs, and balustrades. There was no opportunity of taking rest, looking about, and seeing who were there. They then found it utterly impossible to get to their servants or to their carriages; indeed, many carriages were called for half an hour without appearing, and a long external portico was crowded the whole afternoon with the first ladies in the land, waiting in vain for the appearance of their splendid but now useless equipages. No lady or gentleman could look back on the afternoon without the feeling of having gone through an unpleasant and rather degrading process. All this, of course, is wholly unnecessary. There is no reason for making the Royal presence a climax of difficulties, as if Queen Victoria were perched at the top of a rugged steep, trodden by toiling drovers. She ought not to be made the object of a painful pilgrimage. Every stage of the affair is a mere mechanical question, and admitting of the easiest remedies. A thousand pounds—not more than the damage now done to ladies' dresses—would go a great way in providing temporary places for putting down and taking up, for obtaining wider passages and ample standing room. Nothing would be easier than to make the carriages draw up and put down in tallies of half a dozen at a time, and get the occupants of each half-dozen carriages into a sufficiently capacious saloon before the arrival of the next. It is not the number, but the crowding, that causes the difficulty. If this is not sufficient to keep the stream flowing, there is no reason why there should not be two or

more entrances, to which the carriages should be alternately directed by the policemen in attendance. Anyhow, it is a merely mechanical question, which only calls for a little head work in some quarters where at present head is not to be found.

We have only talked of arrangements and temporary structures, because there can be no doubt that the old Palace of St. James, like our public offices, is utterly inadequate to its purpose. There is an old tradition that the suite of rooms there is very convenient for royal receptions, but the fact is as we describe, and we leave others to reconcile it with the flattering tradition. It is not fit for the holding of drawing-rooms, and many ladies in delicate health are deterred from attending on these occasions by the prospect of annoyances for which they have neither the nerve nor the physical strength. If we read in a tour through the United States that men had to go through the same process at the White-house, before they could get at the President, which ladies have to go through at St. James's, we should set it down to republican manners. What, then, is to be done? The first and direct remedy is to alter or wholly rebuild St. James's. There are, however, objections to this course. It seems ridiculous to build a suite of rooms for the reception of the Queen's visitors when her palace is only a few hundred yards off, and in most respects quite fit for her purpose. Then, such is the exaggeration of this age, that if St. James's were to be rebuilt it would grow into a monster pile, like the palace of Westminster, with no end of rooms, great and small, galleries, halls, cloak-rooms, robing-rooms, lobbies, towers, ventilators, &c., that would never be put to any use whatever. Lastly, there is a purpose to which St. James's could be adapted, and for which it is admirably adapted. The Ministers have at present no place for their receptions. Their official residences are small, shabby, and even dangerous, and almost every London house is inadequate for a large party. They must invite everybody, and everybody must go; and the result is a crowd, from which everybody escapes as soon as he can, content to have shown his face inside the door. It has been suggested to hand over St. James's for the use of Her Majesty's Ministers, just as Her Majesty's Palace of Westminster has long been given up to Parliament and the Law Courts. Buckingham Palace may not be perfectly adapted for drawing-rooms, inasmuch as it was not built for them. There is only one grand staircase, whereas for this purpose there ought to be two. But if Buckingham Palace is large enough and convenient enough for a ball of 2000 people, surely, with the smallest possible arrangement or management, it might be adapted for the holding of drawing-rooms. But wherever these State ceremonies are held, whether at St. James's or at Buckingham Palace, the approach to Royalty ought not to be disgraced by crushes, and casualties, and alterations of the most ignominious character. Something ought to be done, and something can be done. There must be a general reform in these things. At present there is only one place in England where one can hear music without inconvenience, witness a State ceremony with ease, arrive without delay, and depart without difficulty—and that is the Crystal Palace. Why is it the only place where these conditions are fulfilled? Simply because there is neither the head nor the heart to attempt something better.

INSURANCE-OFFICE REPUTATION.

(From the Spectator.)

THERE is no form of saving which is so profitable as for any specific purpose as insurance, since it obtains a maximum of amount saved or secured for the specific purpose with a minimum of intermediate sacrifice. As the advantages of insurance are better understood, the practice will probably extend; and it becomes, therefore, additionally desirable for insurers and the managers of insurance offices distinctly to understand the grounds upon which the contracts of insurance can be rendered more valuable. Should offices multiply those cases of repudiation which the public has witnessed perhaps too often, a more serious check would be put upon insurance than by the heaviest duty that Government could impose. On the other hand, it is not desirable that the facilities of insurance should operate as a premium upon speculations like Palmer's. We believe that, as usual, all difficulties in "drawing the line" can be obviated by a simple attention to the essentials of insurance. The case of "Truelock v. the Householders and General Life Insurance Company" ought to be instructive to all parties.

In September, 1854, a policy of insurance was effected on the life of Mr. Jodrell, the son and heir of Sir Richard Jodrell, of Chelwick Hall, St. Albans. Several other policies were also effected. Mr. Jodrell died in November, 1855. Mr. Thomas Truelock, formerly a member of the Stock Exchange, claimed £1000 upon the policy which we have first named; and the insurance-company repudiated the claim, on the ground that the representations of the plaintiff as to the value of Mr. Jodrell's life were fraudulent and false, and that the plaintiff had no interest in the policy. The last plea is extremely wide, and if it were indiscriminately used it would unquestionably extinguish a very useful class of insurances—useful to private persons, and most profitable to insurance-offices. How often it happens in private life that a man may undertake to pay a debt of honour, to repay a loan, or to make a gift, to an intimate friend, to benefit a distant relative, to compensate for some service by a prospective service, or in various other ways create an interest in the future condition and the duration of his life which it would be quite impossible to reduce to a legal definition or a recognisable shape. It is not an unusual practice for creditors to insure the lives of their debtors, particularly where those debtors are persons who have a prospect of obtaining money by professional exertions, of succeeding to it by inheritance, or even of coming into property by will or gift, as in the case of a young man who has married into a wealthy family; it is impossible to define the luncheonable instances in which common prudence suggests insurance; and insurance-offices well know that a large part of their revenue is derived from this very extensive but undefinable class. Let it be understood that a harsh test is to be applied to the insured, and we see that a vast section of insurance business would be extinguished and prohibited for the future. It is as much in the interest of insurance-offices as of the particular claimant in the case, that by a verdict affirming the claim the jury set aside this plea.

The jury also held that the plea of fraud had not been sustained by sufficient proof. We have to learn what "sufficient" proof would be. The case itself was by no means absolute or distinct. Mr. Jodrell had been addicted to habits of great intemperance; he had either aggravated a natural infirmity or had been rendered insane by the use of stimulants; but he had become steadier after his marriage, and although still using too much intoxicating drink, it does not appear that he had kept up his habits of excessive intemperance. The insurance-office knew that his life had been rejected by another office on the ground of intemperance, and a higher rate of premium was charged, equivalent to fourteen years more than Mr. Jodrell's actual age, on the score of the detriment to his probable life. It appears that, subsequently, the medical report was found to have been somewhat too favourable, and that certain facts were not stated; but it did not appear that the insurer was aware of these facts, and it would be a very mischievous rule to lay down that inaccuracies in the original proposals void or vitiate the policy. It must inevitably happen that where life is at all doubtful, the reports of friendly referees and of the insurer's own medical adviser, must represent the case rather than *en beau*. Insurance offices particularly, know how to make allowances for those deviations from accuracy; they have their own means of making inquiries respecting the character and relative position of the parties making the proposals; it is at their own peril to consider the evidence before them, to regard it as sufficient or otherwise, and to reject or accept the proposals. They have especial protection in their medical officer, who, but for it, it is to detect facts detrimental to the insured. It seldom happens that a patient under inquiry by a medical man can conceal important facts bearing upon his case; the medical man always knows so many ways of approaching and surprising the examiner if he should prevaricate. The chief difficulty in cases of the kind lies with the insurance-offices and their own officers, who, in their anxiety to increase business, are sometimes too lenient in accepting the proposals; but it would be fatal to the insurance-companies generally if juries were to sanction the principle that the officers of the insurance-companies may be lax in the acceptance of proposals, and after a lapse of time become strict in the fulfilment of the contract. The tendency should be exactly the reverse—rigour in the examination of the proposals, and liberality of construction on the liquidation of the policy. Every office of high character would consider it properly attested under the hands of its own officers, a bank-note, the presentation of which would be "indisputable" though the parties holding it might be liable to process for obtaining it fraudulently. One office takes its title—the Indisputable—from having absolutely adopted that principle as a basis. But then, the fraud could not consist in a constructive inaccuracy, or of some question in the degree of the adjectives used in a medical report; it should be such a fraud as would subject the claimant to proceedings in a criminal court. By neglecting these plain rules, it is probable that insurance offices have laid themselves open to receive proposals for the life of an Ann Palmer, or Walter Palmer, or "George Bate, Esq.," while they are as likely to make the public suspect that it would be better to incur the risk of loss by death than to lock up money in a policy of insurance which may afterwards be repudiated because some friendly referee had generalized facts, or a medical friend had taken too sanguine a view of his patient's health.

PICTURE OF AN ELIZABETHAN THEATRE.—The Elizabethan theatre must be viewed as little better than one of Richardson's shows, as far as appliances go: the curtains pull apart, and there is a tapestry representing a tower—that is Troy, or make use of it, there is a board over which the names are written up, like a finger-post. At the back of the stage is a platform and balcony—that is the city wall, where Helen will see the armies of eight men each, pass in solemn procession—the Greeks and the Trojans are in a high stage box. The actors enter: Troilus in hose and doublet, and Cressida (a plump boy of fourteen) in farthingale and corselet. A man in a black velvet cloak, heralded by a trumpet, enters, the names written as a prologue. Such is Shakespeare's stage. On the boards at each side are gallants smoking and laughing. The pit is standing, and the second gallery is cracking nuts and pelting Hector with rotten apples. In the best boxes we see some rather eminent men. Burleigh for instance, and Sidney and Raleigh, while Shakespeare acts Achilles. Many an Elizabethan traveller must have been struck, in a turn of the road by such a wagon of strolling players as met the eye of Don Quixote, the champion of La Mancha; a tilt wagon laden with bales, and driven by a devil complete with horns and hoofs, a cupid leading the horses, and an angel and an angel's lover, under a canopy, while a jester ran before beating his bladders and peas, and jingling his bells. In such guise rode the itinerant performers often from place to place, to save trouble of dressing—sometimes, under a party, others wearing, drinking, or quarrelling—Shakespeare's England, by

found a corresponding white man, always in the same impressive attitude of the health and spirits of the occupier. From these observations, I would respectfully drop a hint to the authorities of schools, asylums, and hospitals, to eschew yellow, buff, or anything approaching to yellow, as the ground colour of the interior of their buildings.—WILLIAM BURNS, Etc.

LEAD HOLLAND.—The eccentric Lord Holland, of the religious and political sect known as the "heretics," would concern in a covered gallery, especially constructed for the purpose. He maintained that it cheered their hearts and improved their temper, and an eye-witness says that they seemed to be greatly delighted there.

(From the Morning Chronicle.)

that a shipowner, when computing the expense of a voyage, had reckoned nothing but his dock charges, without including in them the wages of seamen or the cost of stores, he would display the same sort of ignorance as that manifested in considering the £6000 laid out in the first works, as the sum total of cost incurred on the first works. But Mr. Noel said, in no ignorant. He did not exercise the customary art in evading a direct and comprehensible reply. The habit is, to suppose, so strong that it cannot be refuted, even when a more open course would really be found useful as well as creditable. In the present case the Minister would have been really benefited by making an open and candid statement. Accepting even the extravagant estimate of Lord Holtam, who computed that the display must have cost £50,000, there is nothing to damage the Government, and nothing to damage the affair. The House had voted against the Government, and the House could not complain of the bill. The apparent cost, moreover, could be shown to be much more

And here is the grand supplement to English public opinion on the subject of juvenile reformation. We admit that boys, in the vast majority of cases, go wrong through error, and need to be supplied with parental guidance; but in practice we assume that we can only "sentence" them to a limited term of parental "care," and that the parentage must be very rough, coarse, regular, and of makeshift. In Mettray we see our mistake. De Metz found that he could take the model of the parental relation not only for a starting-point, but for a constant standard. The little child who must be placed upon the stool in order that his head may reach above the judge's desk finds in Mettray a family home, where the chief watches over him with solicitude; studies his individual disposition; his weaknesses, his temper, his gaiety, his gravity; corrects him with punishment, stimulates him with reward; praiseth him, exhorts him, helps him in difficulty, supports through his misadventure, hints a business; assists him to get on in life; provides for him out in the world, patronise—friends of the family—who will watch over him; and receives him back when out of work, or ill. For, says M. De Metz, no true parent would permit him to go to a hospital. In short, M. de Metz tells us, "when anything occurs in which he does not see his way clearly, he always considers what a father or mother would do in such a case." And this kind of training, which commences with infancy, should last till the child is grown up—out of his teens; it should do so, and at Mettray it does.

It is a labour which is to a great extent independent of political diversities. The subjects of an empire, the citizens of a commonwealth, are equally interested in training up their youth to an intelligent way of life; England finds cheer-

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		SUGAR.			
Manila, Zebu, per ton	29	0	0	30 0 0
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Pickles, per dozen pints (Pease's saleable, other brands not wanted).....	0 6 0	0 8 6
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Turpentine, ditto	0 4 0	0 3 0
PROVISIONS.		
Irish butter, per lb.	0 1 2	0 1 2

BEER, ETC.			
Burton ale, per hoghead	8	0	0
Ditto, second brands, per hoghead	6	15	0

London bottled ditto, per dozen	0	8	0	0	11	0
Fine sherry, per gallon	0	0	0	0	10	0
Ordinary ditto, ditto	0	10	0	1	10	0

Case ditto, each 1 dozen	0 18 0	1 3 0
Gla, per gallon	0 0 0	0 0 0
Geneva, D.P., per 4 gallon case	0 18 0	0 19 0

Barley, ditto	0 3 9	0 4 0
Maise, ditto	0 8 0	0 3 8
Speltz, ditto	0 8 0	0 3 8

		SALT.			
Liverpool, per ton	.....	4	15	0	5 0 0
Dairy, ditto	.....	6	0	0	6 10 0

CORDAGE.						
Cable, in sizes, per ton	30	0	0	40	0	0
Twine, in sizes, per ton	20	0	0	35	0	0

Iron bark, in sizes, per ton	13 0 0	13 0 0
Ditto plates, per ton	18 0 0	20 0 0
Ditto sheets, ditto	17 0 0	20 0 0

Countess ditto 20 x 10	14	0	0	15	0	0
Duchess ditto	18	0	0	0	0	0
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